

.7.

S.N. 09/772,273

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-7, 10-15, 18-20, 22, and 24 are pending in this application. Claims 21 and 23 have been canceled without prejudice, since they have been presented in independent form in claims 1 and 11 from which they originally depended. Claims 22 and 24 have been represented in independent form including the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

In the Office Action dated March 3, 2003, the Examiner indicated that claims 18 and 20 were allowed over the prior art of record. Applicant's attorney acknowledges the allowance of claims 18 and 20. The Examiner indicated that new claims 21-24 were also allowable over the prior art of record, but depended from rejected claims. It is submitted that new claims 21-24 have now been represented in independent form as claims 1, 11, 22 and 24. It is believed that the representation of these claims places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the

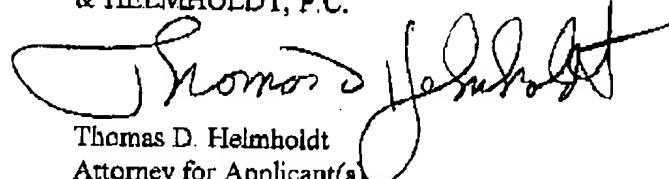
-8-

S.N. 09/772,273

Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG, BASILE, HANLON, MacFARLANE, WOOD  
& HELMHOLDT, P.C.



Thomas D. Helmholdt  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Registration No. 33181  
(248) 649-3333

3001 West Big Beaver Rd., Suite 624  
Troy, Michigan 48084-3107

Dated: July 3, 2003  
TDH/cmp